

REMARKS

Newly added Claims 15-20 are presented for examination in this application, of which Claims 15, 17 and 19 are independent claims. Claims 1-14 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Corrected Form PTO-1449

Initially, it is noted that the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed previously in this case inadvertently omitted to identify the Publication No. and earliest publication date of the two Japanese Laid Open Patent Application abstracts submitted therewith. Accordingly, a corrected form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial it (and return a copy to applicants' attorneys), to ensure the correct printing of any [patent which may issue from the present application. (While no fee is believed to be due, any required fee may be charged to deposit Account 06-1205.)

The Prior-Art Rejections

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Canon imageRUNNER 400/300 series manual (“Canon”); and Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,618,553 (Shiohara). In addition, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Canon* publication in view of U.S. Patent 5,878,197 (Miyahara).

The cancellation of Claims 1-14 renders the rejection of those claims moot, and the new claims are believed clearly to be allowable over the foregoing art, for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is intended to eliminate a type of inconvenience that has been encountered in the handling and printing of multiple images on a single page. Such problems are encountered with increasing frequency as the popularity of digital cameras continues to grow, although the problem is not confined to images obtain using such cameras. Where (as is frequently the case) the size of an image is specified unchangeably, and it is desired to print a number of images on a single sheet, it may turn out that it is impossible to do what is desired, as the images may simply not all fit on one sheet of the size intended.

Independent Claim 15 is directed to a print control apparatus for printing a plurality of images, that comprises means for designating a print size for each of the plurality of images to be printed, as well as means for designating a sheet size on which an image to be printed is printed, and means for designating the number of images to be printed on a sheet having the designated sheet size. Also provided are control means, for controlling execution of a print by reducing each of the designated print sizes to an appropriate print size which allows printing of all the images (as designated by the print image number designation means) on a single sheet having the designated sheet size, in a case where that would not be possible with the images printed at their designated sizes.

That is, using a print control apparatus constructed according to Claim 15, the sheet size, print sizes of the image to be printed, and the number of images to be printed

on one sheet, are each variable, in a fashion based on the relationship among these parameters. By the virtue of this, since a size reduction is executed by operation of the recited control means only in a case where no image can be printed without size reduction, the printing of an image can be executed while giving priority to maintaining the designated print sizes of the images to be printed.

In contrast, the *Canon* publication relates to choice of layout, and in particular, permits an image to be resized according to the chosen layout. As a result, the *number of images* that are printed on a sheet is not variable once the layout has been chosen, since the number of images that are to be printed is set, even if resizing occurs. Applicants submit that nothing in *Canon* would teach or suggest controlling of execution of printing by reducing each of the designated print sizes to an appropriate print size which allows all images (of the designated number of images) to be printed on sheet having the designated sheet size, in a case where the images cannot all be printed on a sheet of that size with the designated print size, and no image can be printed on the sheet having the designated sheet size without reducing the print sizes.

Shiohara relates to a digital camera and a printing system in which a user can select an image displayed on the camera, and specify paper size (see 4543 in Fig. 6; col. 7, lines 64-66), print color mode, and the like, as well as the number of print sheets to be printed, and the image is prepared for printing based on these instructions. The prepared image data is transmitted from the camera to a color printer for printing. Nothing, however, has been found in *Shiohara* that would teach or suggest control means like that recited in Claim 15.

For these reasons, Claim 15 is believed to be clearly allowable over either *Canon* or *Shiohara* (or both together, assuming such combination would be a permissible one).

Independent Claims 17 and 19 are respectively a method claim and a memory-medium claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 15, and are allowable over the documents discussed above, for the reasons presented above with regard to Claim 15.

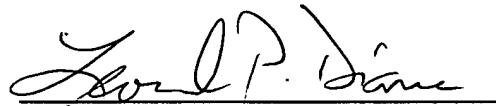
A review of the other art of record, including *Miyahara*, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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